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APRIL TRIP TO FARALLON ISLANDS

On Sunday, April 3 about 45 members and guests of the Golden Gate Audubon Society sailed on the *Privateer II* to the Farallon Islands (actually the south-east island). The trip began at daybreak at the Berkeley Yacht Harbor, and some passengers were taken aboard in San Francisco. The usual route was followed: through the Golden Gate to the island, then south about five miles, and from there directly back to the Golden Gate.

A good variety of water birds and a few land birds were seen while in San Francisco Bay, but after leaving the Golden Gate the birding was dull until we reached a fog bank about six miles from the island. Immediately on entering this bank of rather thin fog the birding improved, and we often saw small flocks of Sooty Shearwaters resting on the water, then flying off as we approached. Dr. Hill of Massachusetts, one of our guests, saw a Pink-footed Shearwater. At the island, Common Murres and Pigeon Guillemots were abundant, and we had excellent views of Tufted Puffins in flight. A close-up of a female Harlequin Duck was a highlight here.

This was a good trip for alcid, six species of which were seen. One Black-footed Albatross was seen in the distance by Richard Stallcup. There were a few Black-legged Kittiwakes, but no jaegers or petrels.

The following 50 species were observed during the day, about 30 of them outside the Golden Gate: Common, Arctic, and Red-throated Loon; Horned, Eared, and Western Grebe; Black-footed Albatross (1); Pink-footed (1) and Sooty Shearwater (400+); Brown Pelican (in the bay); Double-crested, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorant; Black Brandt (50+); Shoveler (30+); Canvasback; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; Harlequin Duck (1 Female); White-winged and Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Red-breasted Merganser; Black Oystercatcher; Killdeer; Surfbird; Black Turnstone; Dunlin; Short-billed Dowitcher; Sanderling; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, Mew, and Bonaparte's Gull; Black-Legged Kittiwake; Common Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Ancient Murrelet (6+); Cassin's Auklet (15+); Rhinoceros Auklet (5+); Tufted Puffin (10+); Barn Swallow; House Sparrow; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch. E. A. ALBERTSON, *Leader and Historian*

APRIL TRIP TO McCOY RANCH, ARROYO MOCHO

On April 23 and 24, we again had a field trip that was a double-header; this time it was to the McCoy Ranch, Arroyo Mocho, and up the mountain along the Mines Road. The Saturday group of 32 members and guests contended with intermittent showers but, in spite of this, had a very good day that included seeing a Green Heron and a Road-Runner, as well as all of the birds usually

observed in this area in the spring. About 25 people went on the Sunday trip, which was cool and cloudy until almost noon, but sunny the rest of the day. This was also a very good trip for birding. Of great interest, as always, were the Lewis Woodpeckers, the enchantingly brilliant Bullock Orioles (about 50 of them), and the shiny black Phainopeplas, with their black and white lacy-looking wings. Some nesting birds were observed (Black Phoebe, Plain Titmouse, Cliff Swallows) and a Killdeer, with young, that put on a convincing broken-wing act. Other highlights of the two days were a Golden Eagle, a Nashville and a MacGillivray's Warbler, Lazuli Buntings, Lawrence's Goldfinches, and Lark and Sage Sparrows.

While driving up the mountain, about ten miles south of the McCoy Ranch in a vain search for a Hooded Oriole, (seen nesting there last year), the group saw great masses of stenotopsis on the hillsides in what was probably their prime. At the McCoy Ranch, California poppies and brodiaea (Ithuriel's Spear) were everywhere.

The over-all bird count for the two days was 75 species, as follows: Green Heron; Turkey Vulture; Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawk; Golden Eagle; Sparrow Hawk; California Quail; Killdeer; Mourning Dove; Road-Runner; White-throated Swift; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; California, Lewis's, and Nuttall's Woodpecker; Western Kingbird; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Black and Say's Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Western Wood Pewee; Olive-sided Flycatcher; Violet-green, Tree, Rough-winged, and Cliff Swallow; Steller's and Scrub Jay; Yellow-billed Mapie; Common Crow; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit; House and Bewick's Wren; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Robin; Western Bluebird; Cedar Waxwing; Phainopepla; Loggerhead Shrike; Hutton's and Warbling Vireo; Orange-Crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Audubon's, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark (singing its spring song); Red-winged Blackbird; Bullock's Oriole; Brewer's Blackbird; Brown-headed Cowbird; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting; House Finch; Pine Siskin; American, Lesser and Lawrence's Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Savannah, Lark, and Sage Sparrow; Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrow.

CARLYLE SATHER, *Leader and Historian—Sat.*

ERLINE HEVEL, *Leader and Historian—Sun.*

MAY TRIP TO THE JACK LONDON RANCH

On Sunday, May 1, about 50 people met in Glen Ellen for the trip to the Jack London Ranch. Although no unusual birds were seen during the day, we had good views of the Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Buntings, Western Kingbirds, and Bullock's Orioles. Spotting nests is always fun; and we found a Lark Sparrow nest with one young and one egg and two Western Flycatcher nests with eggs.

The following 61 species were seen or heard: Mallard; Turkey Vulture; Cooper's, Red-tailed, and Red-shouldered Hawk; California Quail; Killdeer; Mourning Dove; Great Horned Owl; Anna's, Rufous, and Allen's Hummingbird; Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpecker; Western Kingbird; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Black Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Western Wood Pewee; Violet-green, Rough-winged, and Cliff Swallow; Steller's and Scrub Jay; Common Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted

Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; House and Bewick's Wren; Robin; Swainson's Thrush; Western Bluebird; Cedar Waxwing; Hutton's, Solitary, and Warbling Vireo; Orange-crowned, Yellow, and Wilson's Warbler; Yellow-breasted Chat; House Sparrow; Bullock's Oriole; Brewer's Blackbird; Brown-headed Cowbird; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting; Purple and House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Lark Sparrow; Oregon Junco; Chipping, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrow.

MARIANNE SHEPARD, *Co-leader and Historian*

SUSAN SHEPARD, *Co-leader*

APRIL TRIP TO BAY FARM ISLAND

About 30 members and guests met on April 10 for a tour of shore-bird areas near San Leandro Bay, Bay Farm Island, and Alameda. Threatening clouds early in the day gave way to sunshine tempered by wind. The 8:30 start, together with especially favorable tide conditions, made it possible to explore three areas during the morning: Lincoln Park in Alameda, the loafing grounds off Frontage Road in Oakland, and a new area bordering San Leandro Creek in the vicinity of Hegenberger Road. Lunch at the west end of Bay Farm Island coincided with the arrival of birds in the mudflats. The west shore was explored after lunch; and a brief stop was made later on the Alameda South Shore. On the Frontage Road loafing grounds the Avocets, Black-bellied Plovers, Dowitchers, and Dunlins were conspicuous in their breeding plumage. Because birds were still coming back from feeding, flight patterns were seen clearly.

These 61 species were tallied on the trip: Horned and Eared Grebe; Common and Snowy Egret; Mallard; Pintail; Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal; Shoveler; American Widgeon; Canvasback; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawk; Ring-necked Pheasant; American Coot; Semipalmated Plover; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Ruddy Turnstone; Long-billed Curlew; Whimbrel; Willet; Knot; Least Sandpiper; Dunlin; Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitcher; Western Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; American Avocet; Western, Herring, California, and Ring-billed Gull; Foster's, Common (1), and Caspian (2) Tern; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Horned Lark; Barn Swallow; Scrub Jay; Robin; Water Pipit; House Sparrow; Loggerhead Shrike; Western Meadowlark; Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbird; Brown-headed Cowbird; House Finch; American Goldfinch; Brown Towhee; Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrow.

ELSIE ROEMER, *Leader and Historian*

THE CONSERVATION FRONT: WE WANT WILDERNESS

The Wilderness Bill is in trouble! This bill, vital to the safety of many national parks, forests, monuments and refuges, is not moving as fast as it should to insure passage this year. This is what you can do: Write our Senators (Sens. Kuchel and Engle) urging them to speed up action on the Bill as revised in *Committee Print 3*, to oppose last-minute delays; write your Congressmen now and ask him to support the Bill when it reaches the House, and to urge the House Interior Committee to prompt action. This is without doubt the most important bit of conservation legislation in many years and deserves the support of everyone who enjoys wilderness.

A "Pesticides Coordination Act" which has been proposed as H.R. 11502 is a great step forward in reducing this hidden killer of wildlife (and people

OBSERVATIONS AND FIELD NOTES

Following are observations and field notes of general interest. All members and friends of the G.G.A.S. are encouraged to contribute their sightings to *The Gull*. Observations for the July issue will be from the 15th of May to the 10th of June, and should reach the editor by the 12th if not before.

This last month has been rather unproductive for sightings, whether through lack of birds or birders it is not known, but here are a few worth-while observations and a few "where to find it" notes: KNOTS turned up in consistently large numbers during the winter, and to close the season 70 were seen at the South Shore development in Alameda on April 3 and three on April 30 at Moss Landing (Howard L. Cogswell); the CASPIAN TERN colony at the Dumbarton Bridge is somewhat lower in numbers this year with about 235 active nests (HLC); LESSER NIGHTHAWKS, rare in most of the Bay Area, are apparently common on the Livermore-Tracy road near the AEC plant at dusk; at least two COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRDS, unusual north of Condor country, were seen on May 7 on the road between Patterson and Mines Road along the creek bottom. This is undoubtedly an isolated breeding "colony"; these birds are scattered all along this creek (Richard Stallcup). A LEWIS WOODPECKER was seen on April 17 in Portola Valley west of Stanford University (HLC); HOODED ORIOLES can be seen any time in the two palms at 2232 Seminary Avenue, Oakland; GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS are again present this year in the hills above Richmond. They are in the upper reaches of Wildcat canyon on the dirt road above Bonita Street just below the large water tower on the hill.

"BIRDS OF THE BERKELEY HILLS", an excellent little four-page list of the birds found in the Berkeley Hill area, including Tilden Park, is now available. This reissue is free for the asking from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, and at the Bancroft Way office.

"THE NATURE PROGRAM AT CAMP", written by G.G.A.S. member Janet Nickelsburg, is now available at the Audubon Office in Berkeley. This excellent book for anyone interested in nature, and especially its application in camps, sells for \$3.50.

NEST RECORDS.....A PROJECT FOR AMATEUR ORNITHOLOGISTS

An excellent opportunity for amateur ornithologists to contribute to the over-all knowledge of bird life is presented by the British Columbia Nest Records Scheme. The Scheme, in its 6th year, had 101 contributors covering over 3000 nests in 1959. The object of the Scheme is to gather as much information as possible on clutch size, breeding distribution and the time-table of nesting birds on the Pacific Coast.

Most often the observation of the nest is spread out over a certain period to determine the nest building, egg laying, hatching, and fledging dates of the species involved. Sometimes work is done in a colony where a count of nests, eggs, and hatched birds is made on one or more trips. Audubon members interested in this project should write immediately to the B.C. Nest Records Scheme, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, B.C.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from San Francisco, Miss Louise Abbott, Mrs. Milton H. Hoge, and Miss Catherine Ruminoff.

AGNES OCZKEWECZ, *Membership Chairman*

(The total subscription to Gull including all classes of memberships is 860)

IMPORTANT NOTE: The deadline for the July *Gull* will be the 9th of June instead of the usual date of the 15th of the month.

JUNE MEETING

The 508th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in San Francisco on Thursday, June 9 at 7:30 P.M. at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum on Roosevelt at 16th St. (No. 45 Bus on Market Street at 14th Street).

Miss Lee Crouch of the U.S. Forest Service will be the speaker. She will bring us up-to-date on the activities of her department. Also, she will show the delightful film "A Tree is Born", which was filmed at the Placerville Institute of Forest Genetics.

At the end of the program a short film, "Birds of the Countryside", will be an extra treat. A close look at eight common birds, photographed by Dr. Olin S. Pettingill of Screen Tour fame. Revised edition with authentic calls. Bring friends!

BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE

Saturday, June 4, Fleishacker Zoo and beach areas. Bank Swallows, a bird of unique nesting habit, will be the main attraction of this trip. After birding in and around the zoo area a walk will be taken along the beach to observe the swallows nesting in the banks bordering on the shore line. Come prepared to walk in sand. Meet at North entrance to the zoo on Sloat Blvd. at 9:15 a.m. Leader, Aileen Pierson, JU 7-4163.

Sunday June, 5, "Birding by ear" on Mt. Diablo. Meet at the south entrance Mt. Diablo State Park at 6:30 a.m. Drive to the town of Danville and turn east. A state ranger will open gates for early arrivals. Several members have indicated they wish to be on hand for the dawn chorus. They will meet the previous evening, Saturday June 4, and camp at the Live Oak camp site in the park. If you wish to do likewise come and join them. Entrance gates close at 8 p.m. Leader, Mrs. Eleanor A. Pugh, P.O. Box 258, Diablo, Calif.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12, to David Snyder Cabin at Clark Station Summer Homesites in the northern Sierra. Elevation 6,200 feet. Also, to marsh area near Marble's Hot Springs in the Sierra Valley, east of Yuba Pass. Take Highway 40 to Auburn then Highway 49 north to Clark Station, which is nine miles beyond Sierra City. Another route: take Highway 40 to Truckee thence by Highway 89 west to Sattley; approximately one mile northwest of Sattley, turn left on to Highway 49 and cross Yuba Pass. Clark Station is two miles west of Yuba Pass. Accomodations in Sierra City: Sierra Buttes Inn, Yuba River Inn, Pence Motel and Camp Pioneer at Sattley. Camping at National Forest Service Lincoln Creek campground across North Yuba River from Snyder Cabin. Meet at the Cabin 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday. On Sunday we will go to Sierra Valley. Meet at the Snyder Cabin at 8:30 a.m.,

or at The Kitchen in Sattley at 9:30 a.m. For map write: Mrs. D.P. Snyder, Clark Station, Sattley, California or contact the field trips chairman. Co-leaders: Beth Snyder, Guy McCaskie and Harold G. Peterson.

On Saturday, June 25 to Strawberry Canyon. Meet at 9 a.m. at the entrance to the Botanical Gardens. The habitat, some-man made and some natural, attracts a large variety of birds. Hummers can be seen at close range. Lazuli Buntings were present at this time of the year on previous trips. This is a favorite spot with birders (and birds) at all seasons. Bring binoculars, lunch—if desired, and interested friends. Leader: Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534.

TENTATIVE FIELD TRIPS, JULY-DECEMBER 1960

Sat. and Sun., July 16 and 17, overnight to Sugar Bowl and Bocca Reservoir
 Saturday, July 30, Golden Gate Park
 Sunday, August 14, Rodeo Lagoon
 Sat. and Sun., 27 & 28, overnight-Moss Landing & Monterey boat trip
 Sunday, September 11, Woodland to Sacramento on levee roads
 Saturday, September 17, Bay Farm Island
 Sunday, September 25, Golden Gate Park
 Sunday, October 9, Leslie Salt Works (Salt Marsh Sanctuary)
 Saturday, October 15, St. Mary's College and Lake
 Saturday, October 22, Inverness Ridge and Tomales Bay
 Sunday, October 30, Farallon Islands
 Sat. & Sun. November 5 & 6, overnight, Gridley & Willows Waterfowl Refuges
 Sunday, November 13, Orinda and San Pablo Reservoirs
 Sat. and Sun. November 26 & 27, separate trips to Conn Lake
 Sat. & Sun., December 3 & 4 overnight, Los Banos & Merced Waterfowl Refuges

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.50 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way
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